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Other matters

Draft programme of work for the biennium 2004-2005 for the Division for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Note by the Secretariat**

1. The draft programme of work in the field of sustainable development for the biennium 2004-2005, which is contained in the annex to the present note, is submitted for the consideration of the Commission on Sustainable Development in compliance with the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/2000/8). In section I, paragraph 7, of its resolution 52/220, the General Assembly stressed the role of the relevant intergovernmental bodies in the consideration of the narrative of the proposed programme budget, as well as the necessity for a timely presentation of their recommendations on the budget.

2. The draft programme of work has been formulated within the framework of revised subprogramme 4 (Sustainable development) of programme 7 (Economic and social affairs) of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005. It will be implemented by the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat.

3. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 57/282 on programme planning, the draft programme of work for the subprogramme has been prepared in parallel with proposals for revisions to the same subprogramme 4 of programme 7 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 which are being submitted separately to the Commission in document E/CN.17/2003/4. These revisions take

* E/CN.17/2003/1.

** The submission of the present note was delayed in order to allow full consultation between the departments concerned.

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into account, in particular, the mandates emanating from the World Summit on Sustainable Development as well as the United Nations Millennium Declaration.[1]

4. Pursuant to the provisions of General Assembly resolution 57/253 on the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Commission will be reviewing the modalities for its future work at its eleventh session, in the light of the decisions contained in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation).[2] Hence, both the programme of work described below and the revisions to subprogramme 4 of programme 7 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 proposed in document E/CN.17/2003/4 are provisional. They might be modified to reflect the recommendations of the Commission on the modalities of its future programme of work.

5. The Commission is invited to comment and make recommendations on the draft programme of work. By the time the Commission meets at its eleventh session to consider the draft programme of work, the Secretary-General will have finalized the preparation of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005. As a result, it will not be possible to reflect the comments and recommendations that the Commission may wish to make in that programme budget. Instead, in accordance with established practice, any comments and recommendations of the Commission will be submitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-third session (9 June-3 July 2003) when it considers the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005. The Committee will then decide on the recommendations to be made to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session regarding the follow-up to be undertaken with respect to these comments and recommendations.

Notes

[1] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[2] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

Annex

Draft programme of work for the biennium 2004-2005 for the Division for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs

1. The draft programme of work for the biennium 2004-2005 for the Division for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, has been formulated within the framework of revised subprogramme 4 of programme 7 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (E/CN.17/2003/4, annex). The subprogramme will provide support for an effective and coordinated implementation of Agenda 21,[a] the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),[b] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 adopted by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session,[c] the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[d] and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the Assembly to review the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.[e]

2. The Division for Sustainable Development will continue to provide substantive servicing to meetings of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination on matters related to water resources; to the annual meetings organized with the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat on the consultative process on ocean affairs; and to the meetings of the successor arrangements for inter-agency coordination of the Chief Executives Board. Other activities to be continued under the subprogramme will include: liaison with financial institutions, including the Global Environment Facility; participation in and substantive support to various intergovernmental, inter-agency, and expert and major group meetings that are directly related to or organized in support of the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development; and special events including those held during the sessions of the Commission.

Objectives for the biennium, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and performance measures

Objective

The objective of the subprogramme is to support sustainable development efforts at all levels. This will include support for an effective and coordinated implementation of Agenda 21 and other commitments made during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 adopted by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session, the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the Assembly to review the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation), as well as the United Nations Millennium Declaration.[f]

Expected accomplishments	*Indicators of achievement*
(a) Effective implementation of outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development related to the strengthening of the Commission on Sustainable Development and its reorientation to support implementation of sustainable development at all levels, inter alia, through partnerships that support implementation of goals and objectives set at the Summit	(a) Satisfaction expressed with regard to the quality of substantive support provided to the Commission on Sustainable Development and other United Nations intergovernmental processes in the area of sustainable development **Performance measures** 2000-2001: not applicable Estimate 2002-2003: positive satisfaction expressed by 50 per cent of Governments with the quality of substantive support provided Target 2004-2005: positive satisfaction expressed by 75 per cent of Governments with the quality of substantive support provided
(b) Better integration of economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in all activities of sustainable development through strengthened collaboration among international organizations and financial institutions, particularly in the United Nations system, through improved inter-agency cooperation and coordination	(b) (i) Progress in the implementation of a 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, as reported to the Commission **Performance measures** 2000-2001: not available Estimate 2002-2003: to be determined Target 2004-2005: to be determined

Expected accomplishments	*Indicators of achievement*
	(ii) Number of collaborative arrangements in the area of sustainable development involving organizations of the United Nations system and non-United Nations system organizations **Performance measures** 2000-2001: 40 arrangements undertaken in this regard Estimate 2002-2003: 45 arrangements undertaken in this regard Target 2004-2005: 60 arrangements undertaken in this regard
(c) Improvement in monitoring of the implementation of sustainable development goals through the assessment of information collected at the national, regional and international levels	**(c) Timeliness and completeness of analysis of information on implementation of sustainable development goals and targets provided by Governments to the Commission** **Performance measures** 2000-2001: 100 per cent timely and complete analysis of information made available on the implementation of sustainable development goals and targets Estimate 2002-2003: 100 per cent timely and complete analysis of information made available on the implementation of sustainable development goals and targets Target 2004-2005: 100 per cent timely and complete analysis of information made available on the implementation of sustainable development goals and targets
(d) Enhanced involvement of major groups in the work of the Commission and in sustainable development activities in general, including enhanced contribution of major groups to the implementation of Agenda 21, outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and other mandates in the area of sustainable development	**(d) Number of activities carried out by major groups and their overall involvement in the implementation of sustainable development and the work of the Commission** **Performance measures** 2000-2001: 16 activities Estimate 2002-2003: 44 activities Target 2004-2005: 56 activities

Expected accomplishments	*Indicators of achievement*
(e) Enabling the Commission to effectively evaluate and facilitate partnerships that promote sustainable development	**(e) Establishment of an open and transparent mechanism to monitor sustainable development partnerships** **Performance measures** 2000-2001: not applicable Estimate 2002-2003: to be determined Target 2004-2005: to be determined
(f) Enhanced international and regional cooperation, in particular South-South cooperation, in the area of sustainable development, inter alia, through regional and subregional exchanges of experience in the implementation of Agenda 21, as well as through implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development	**(f) Number of activities where exchanges of national, regional and intraregional experiences on sustainable development occurred** **Performance measures** 2000-2001: 30 activities that occurred in this regard Estimate 2002-2003: 35 activities that occurred in this regard Target 2004-2005: 40 activities that occurred in this regard
(g) Enhanced capacity of developing countries and countries with economies in transition with regard to: formulation of national sustainable development strategies, policies and programmes; development of information systems and databases, including indicators of sustainable development; energy; water; mining and minerals	**(g) Feedback provided by developing countries and also countries with economies in transition regarding the usefulness of the advisory services and/or technical cooperation projects and capacity-building support provided and/or implemented under the subprogramme** **Performance measures** 2000-2001: 90 per cent of countries indicating usefulness of advisory services and projects Estimate 2002-2003: 90 per cent of countries indicating usefulness of advisory services and projects Target 2004-2005: 90 per cent of countries indicating usefulness of advisory services and projects

Expected accomplishments	*Indicators of achievement*
(h) Increased public accessibility to and awareness of information about sustainable development and Agenda 21, Commission and Summit outcomes leading to understanding and awareness of sustainable development	(h) (i) Number of Division web site hits during which users spent three minutes or more at the web site **Performance measures** 2000-2001: 234,091 web site visits during which users spent three minutes or more at the web site Estimate 2002-2003: 300,000 web site visits in which users spent three minutes or more at the web site Target 2004-2005: 350,000 web site visits in which users spent three minutes or more at the web site (ii) Ability to meet requests for public information briefings and presentations that are directly relevant to the work programme **Performance measures** 2000-2001: 90 per cent of requests for public briefings and presentations Estimate 2002-2003: 95 per cent of requests for public briefings and presentations Target 2004-2005: 95 per cent of requests for public briefings and presentations
(i) Provision of effective support to the 10-year review of progress achieved in implementing the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States adopted at the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in Barbados in 1994	(i) (i) Number of subregional, regional and global meetings/workshops organized **Performance measures** 2000-2001: data not available Estimate 2002-2003: two subregional, regional and global meetings and workshops Target 2004-2005: 10 subregional, regional and global meetings and workshops

Expected accomplishments	*Indicators of achievement*
	(ii) Number of reports analysing accomplishments in implementing the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States **Performance measures** 2000-2001: one report Estimate 2002-2003: five reports Target 2004-2005: seven reports

External factors

3. The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objectives and expected accomplishments based on the assumption that Governments and international institutions will give priority to the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

4. During the biennium, the following outputs will be delivered:

(a) Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (regular budget/extrabudgetary):

(i) General Assembly:

a. Substantive servicing of meetings (number of meetings in parentheses): international meetings to undertake a full and comprehensive review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (20); meetings of the Second Committee, including informal consultations (40);

b. Parliamentary documentation (number of documents in parentheses): comprehensive review of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (2); follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (2); report on solar energy (1); report on the International Year of Freshwater, 2003 (1);

(ii) United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on ocean affairs:

Substantive servicing of meetings: substantive servicing of the annual meetings organized with the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs (1);

(iii) Economic and Social Council:

a. Substantive servicing of meetings: meetings of the Council (8); and informal consultations (18);

b. Parliamentary documentation: reports of the Commission on Sustainable Development (2);

(iv) Commission on Sustainable Development:

a. Substantive servicing of meetings: meetings of the Commission and in-session drafting groups (147); meetings of the Commission's Bureau and related informal consultations (12); meetings of the intersessional subsidiary bodies (20);

b. Parliamentary documentation: background papers on national coordination mechanisms: list of national focal points and official government web sites on sustainable development (3); comprehensive report for monitoring implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (1); other reports on implementation (6); policy reports on issues identified by the Commission and background papers on issues to be included in the Commission's work programme for 2004-2005 (20); report on assessment of national and regional implementation (1); report to the Commission on the work programme of the Division for Sustainable Development and the subprogramme on sustainable development of the medium-term plan (1);

(v) Ad hoc expert groups: expert group meetings on: small island developing States — linkages between outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the 10-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (1); indicators of sustainable development (1); mining and sustainable development (1); multi-stakeholder dialogues (2); hydropower for sustainable development in Africa (1); natural resources for sustainable development (1); renewable energy for developing countries (1); technologies to reduce emissions from energy consumption (1); changing sustainable consumption and production patterns (1); policy instruments for sustainable development (1); national focal points for sustainable development (1); and regional consultative meeting for exchange of national experiences (1);

(b) Other substantive activities (regular budget/extrabudgetary):

(i) Recurrent publications (number of issues in parentheses): *Energy and Transport Newsletter* (4); *International Rivers and Lakes Newsletter* (4); *Natural Resources Forum* (quarterly) (8); policy instruments for sustainable development (1);

(ii) Non-recurrent publications (number of publications in parentheses): deregulation of the electricity sector (1); environmental accounting (3); environmental and social aspects of small-scale mining (1); integrated product policies for sustainable development (1); market transformation initiatives for energy efficiency and renewable energy resources (1); national cleaner technology strategies (1); power grid interconnections (1); selected trends in

sustainable development (1); strategic approaches to sustainable development of small island developing States (1);

(iii) Booklets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits: brochures (1), pamphlets (1) and posters (1) for the 10-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

(iv) Technical materials: Commission update on the Web (8); development of partnerships for sustainable development web site and database (1); development, maintenance and updating of the directory of national sustainable development focal points (1); development, maintenance and updating of the network of focal points for indicators of sustainable development (1); development, maintenance and updating of the water virtual learning centre (1); development, maintenance and updating of the Small Island Developing States Network web site (1): enhancing the sustainable development section of the departmental web (1); further development and updating of national reporting and indicators databases and web-enabling of national reporting, indicators, and sustainable development partnerships databases (1); strategic approaches/methodologies for indicators of sustainable development (1); training manual for development, monitoring and evaluation of national sustainable development strategies (1); background papers for the Bureau of the Commission (12); notes on the meetings of the Bureau (12);

(v) Substantive servicing of inter-agency meetings: inter-agency meetings for coordinating United Nations work in the area of sustainable development (6);

(c) Technical cooperation (regular budget/extrabudgetary):

(i) Advisory services: expert advisory services, at the request of Governments and in cooperation with United Nations bodies and the regional commissions, will be provided to developing countries, small island developing States and countries with economies in transition, for capacity-building and/or strengthening in such areas as formulation of national strategies for sustainable development, indicators for monitoring progress in implementation of sustainable development strategies, reporting and indicators, facilitating partnerships for sustainable development, strengthening of institutions and providing support to multi-stakeholder consultative processes that promote sustainable development, as well as those related to sustainable management of freshwater and energy for sustainable development, with a focus on energy efficiency and new and renewable energy resources and advanced fossil fuel technologies as well as infrastructure development, minerals etc.;

(ii) Training courses, seminars and workshops: training seminars and/or workshops for and with national policy makers in developing countries, small island developing States and countries with economies in transition with a view to strengthening national capabilities in all areas of sustainable development, including, among other things, national cleaner technologies strategies, environmental management accounting, integrated water resources management, energy for sustainable development and social impacts of mining;

(iii) Field projects: provision of technical services to member States under country, regional and interregional technical cooperation projects in the area of sustainable development supported from all sources of funding.

Notes

[a] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

[b] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[c] General Assembly resolution S-19/2, annex.

[d] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[e] General Assembly resolution S-22/2, annex.

[f] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.